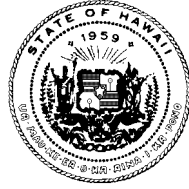


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STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

DIR 21.027

December 20, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker  
and Members of the House of  
Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

Enclosed is the following report submitted in accordance with section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Related to the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund.

In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, the report is available to review electronically at the Department's website, at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

Cathy Betts  
Director

Enclosure

c:

Governor's Office  
Lieutenant Governor's Office  
Department of Budget & Finance  
Legislative Auditor  
Legislative Reference Bureau Library (1 hard copy)

President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki

December 20, 2021

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Hamilton Library, Serials Department, University of Hawaii (1 hard copy)

**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-SECOND HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE 2022**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 346-7.5,  
HAWAII REVISED STATUTES,  
ON THE SPOUSE AND CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL FUND**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
Social Services Division  
Child Welfare Services Branch  
December 2021**

The Department of Human Services (DHS), per section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), provides an accounting of the receipts and expenditures from the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund (SCASF). The Social Services Division, Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) administers the SCASF.

## **Background**

Act 232 of the Seventeenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, 1994, established the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account (SCASA) in the Department of Human Services (DHS), codified as section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). Act 232 specified "the proceeds of the account shall be reserved for use by the department of human services for staff programs and grants or purchases of service . . . that support or provide spouse or child abuse intervention or prevention as authorized by law." The funds originally came from fees for marriage licenses.

Act 216 of the Nineteenth Legislature, 1997, increased the SCASA by adding revenues from increased fees for certified copies of birth and death certificates and marriage licenses.

Act 177 of the Twenty-First Legislature, 2002, increased the SCASA by raising the funding ceiling from \$300,000 to \$450,000 to allow DHS to fund additional program needs. Act 158, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2008, further increased the ceiling to \$610,000.

In the Thirtieth Legislature, 2019, the administration proposed SB 1231 that became Act 84, SLH 2019, on June 7, 2019. Act 84, SLH 2019, amended section 346-7.5, HRS, to allow the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund to receive Title IV-E federal reimbursements received in the fiscal year following the year in which the Title IV-E funds were expended, up to \$3,000,000. The amendment was in preparation for the end of Hawaii's Title IV-E waiver on September 30, 2019. DHS anticipated that the end of the waiver would result in a reduction of federal funds by an estimated 15 percent. By adding the reimbursed funds to SCASA instead of being deposited to the state general fund, DHS would have additional funds for spouse and child abuse services and prevention services required by the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (FFPSA). Additionally, Act 84, SLH 2019, changed the fund's name from Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account (SCASA) to Spouse and Child Abuse Special *Fund* (SCASF).

Though DHS requested a budget adjustment in the 2020 executive budget, due to the many impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Legislature did not adjust the fund ceiling to \$3,000,000.00 in the DHS base budget. Further anticipating that the State's Family First Prevention Services Act plan would be approved by October 2021, DHS requested an additional ceiling increase to \$5,000,000 in both statute and the executive budget. These requests are pending before the 2022 session.

In August 2021, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, approved Hawaii's Family First Prevention Services Act plan. Retaining additional funds in the SCASF will provide needed non-federal funds for prevention services under FFPSA and serve as the non-federal fund match to access other federal reimbursement funds available through FFPSA.

FFPSA recognizes that families can often provide safe and loving care if they have the support and services they need. Therefore, the additional SCASF funds will provide families, including expectant and parenting youth in foster care, access to evidence-based services in the areas of parenting skills and supports, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment.

**I. SFY 2021 BUDGET**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| A. Balance on 7/1/20   | \$342,881 |
| <b>B. State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021 REVENUE</b>                           |           |
| Fees for certified copies of health statistics records                   | \$230,846 |
| Miscellaneous  | \$34,067  |
| Fees for non-business licenses, permits and marriage licenses            | \$61,556  |
| Subtotal Revenue   | \$326,468 |
| <hr/>  |           |
| Total Revenue  | \$669,349 |
| <b>C. SFY 2021 EXPENDITURES / ENCUMBRANCES</b>                           |           |
| 1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.                                | \$110,533 |
| 2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors - Susannah Wesley Community Center | \$68,301  |
| 3. CWS Management Leadership Team  | \$61,481  |
| 4. DAGS Special Fund Assessment  | \$53,593  |
| 5. Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HI-SYNC)              | \$67,307  |
| 6. Intra-Familia Sex Abuse Treatment Services - Oahu                     | \$75,771  |
| Total Expenditures/Encumbrances  | \$436,987 |
| <hr/>  |           |
| D. Carry-over to SFY 2022  | \$232,363 |

**SFY 2021 BUDGET**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| E. Balance on 7/1/21   | \$232,362  |
| F. SFY 2022 PROJECTED REVENUE<br>Projected Revenue all current sources   | \$326,468  |
| Total Projected Revenue  | \$558,830  |
| G. PLANNED EXPENDITURES for SFY 2022                                     |            |
| 1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.                                | \$ 180,943 |
| 2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center | \$ 129,763 |
| 3. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide           | \$40,000   |
| 4. Hawaii State Citizen’s Review Panel                                   | \$20,000   |
| 5. CWS Management Leadership Team  | \$30,000   |
| 6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment  | \$34,000   |
| 7. DV Training and DV Fatality Review                                    | \$5,000    |
| 8. Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC)               | \$30,000   |
| 9. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services - Oahu                    | \$89,124   |
| Total Planned Expenditures   | \$558,830  |
| H. Projected Balance for 7/1/22  | \$0        |

**II. SFY 2021 Outcomes**

**1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.**

Family Wrap Hawaii Services provides services to families with children in foster care. These children may be reunified with their family; however, the family needs assistance and support to achieve this goal. The families involved in this program received services from multiple agencies that address the family's complex issues. Some parents struggle with stable housing, domestic violence, mental health issues, or substance use disorders. Other families have children with behavioral challenges and physical or intellectual disabilities. Most of the children in these families are healing from physical and emotional trauma and have learning differences that are difficult to address. Family Wrap Hawaii Services brings agencies together to collaborate and overcome systemic barriers. It coordinates services with the providers and the family to develop creative ways to remove the barriers to reunification. CWS partners with the Departments of Education and Health, Family Court, service providers, and others to "wrap" the family in supportive services, strengthening the family, and enabling the children to return to their family safely.

In SFY 2021, Family Wrap Hawaii Services safely reunified 23 children in foster care with their families. These families expressed feeling supported by the Family Wrap Hawaii Services and that the services felt more respectful and empowering than other services they had previously received.

## **2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center**

The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (2014), Public Law no. 113-183, requires CWS in all states to provide support services to minor victims of sex trafficking. Unfortunately, no federal funds accompany the 2014 law. CWS offers counseling, advocacy, and support to trafficked children throughout the State by trained and experienced individuals working with this specialized population.

In SFY 2021, CWS contracted services from Susannah Wesley Community Center that served 31 confirmed minor trafficking survivors, an additional 34 potential trafficking victims, and numerous family members of the victims. Without these supportive services, the trafficked individuals would likely suffer more emotional and physical trauma, as many would return to their traffickers.

## **3. CWS Management Leadership Team**

SCASF also funded the CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT) initiatives which bring together statewide CWS Section Administrators and Supervisors once a quarter. At these meetings, CWS leadership: 1) identifies, discusses, and develops plans to enhance services to CWS children and families; 2) shares local strategies to reach desired casework outcomes, reviews statewide and local data, and examines the implications for improving practice; and 3) reviews changes in federal and state law, governing rules, and procedures, and the impact on CWS practice.

In SFY 2021, among other projects and initiatives, the MLT worked on continued coordination and implementation of Hawaii's CFSR PIP3.<sup>1</sup> Successful completion of the plan and the corresponding performance improvement is required to continue to receive federal funding.

In SFY 2021, CWS prepared to implement its federal Family First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA) plan. MLT meetings focused on sharing information with staff, engagement, developing, and implementing Hawaii's FFPSA plan.

## **4. DAGS (Department of Accounting and General Services) Special Fund Assessment**

To fulfill its statutory obligation to pay special fund fees to the Department of Accounting & General Services, in SFY 2021, DHS paid \$53,593 to the DAGS for the required special fund assessments.

## **5. Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC)**

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<sup>1</sup> CFSR PIP is the Child and Family Services Reviews-Program Improvement Plan 3 required by the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children & Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

CWS is part of a statewide multidisciplinary and cross-department group of professionals, who work with children and their families. HISYN works to break down systemic barriers to collaborate across agencies smoothly. CWS and the other member agencies contribute funds to this collaborative to ensure its continuation and help families with needed services.

In SFY 2018, the Legislature passed a HISYNC resolution that urged the Judiciary, the Departments of Education, Health, and Human Services to permanently establish and participate in the Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC).

Also, in SFY 2018, the HISYNC partners, DHS/CWS, DHS/Office of Youth Services (OYS), DOH/Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD), and DOH/Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD), issued their first joint Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP aimed to fund a crisis home for youth with high needs, who cannot be maintained in their homes, and who do not meet criteria for other placement settings. In SFY 2019, HISYNC awarded the first contract for the joint crisis home for youth with high needs to the Child and Family Services (CFS). In SFY 2020, among other projects, HISYNC focused energy on guiding, monitoring, and shaping the new contracted service.

In SFY 2021, in addition to continuing to actively and collaboratively address issues of families with multi-system involvement, HISYNC worked on three projects: 1) increased HISYNC members' knowledge about each other's systems to improve service coordination; 2) improved the organization and usability of the Hawaii Youth Interagency Performance Report (HYIPR) that HISYNC produces; and 3) explored crisis stabilization services, identifying needs and resources to prevent and address family crises.

## **6. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services - Oahu**

CWS contracts with local community social service agencies to provide families engaged with CWS with essential sex abuse treatment services. On Oahu, CWS currently contracts with Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH). Child victim safety is the overarching goal of the services and interventions. The contract serves minor victims of parental sexual abuse, siblings, non-perpetrating parents, and parental perpetrators of sex abuse involving minors. These services include assessment, skill-building, individual therapy, group therapy, and family therapy, as clinically indicated. In addition, offenders are held accountable for their actions.

In SFY 2021, this contracted service on Oahu served 238 individuals, including 131 victims and siblings of victims. The remaining 107 individuals were parents, some perpetrators, and some non-perpetrators. More than half of the victims and siblings served were under age 13. Ninety-nine percent of the people served by this contract received individual clinical counseling in SFY 2021.

### **III. SFY 2022 Planned Use of Funds**

#### **1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.**



Please see the service description in section IV.1. above.

In SFY 2022, CWS plans to continue these important services, engaging in concerted and creative efforts with families, to reunify children in foster care with their families of origin.

## **2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center**

Please see the service description in section IV.2. above.

CWS plans to serve approximately 60 minor trafficking victims, along with their families, through its contract with Susannah Wesley Community Center in SFY 2022.

## **3. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide**

In collaboration with the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT), Hawaii hosts an annual conference that features national and local experts presenting on a wide range of child welfare services. Topics include teen dating violence, commercial sexual exploitation of minors, evidence-based practices in child welfare, culturally-informed service delivery, and the use of psychotropic medication with youth in foster care. CWS' use of SCASF resources to bring this conference to staff and the community is essential to keep Hawaii's CWS staff and community partners at the forefront of development and research in child welfare practice. Increasing staff knowledge and experiences will better serve Hawaii's children and families.

## **4. Hawaii State Citizens' Review Panel**

The Department financially supports the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) required by the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The purpose of the CRP is to evaluate the extent to which the State is fulfilling its child protection responsibilities by (1) examining the policies, procedures, and practices of the State and (2) reviewing specific cases, where appropriate. Funding provides airfare, mileage, and car rental reimbursements for neighbor island CPR members to attend bi-monthly meetings and participate in the National CRP Conference.

In SFY 2022, the CRP plans to further assist CWS in workforce support and development. This work will include further developing the CRP as an advisory board for line staff to voice their concerns to administrators. In addition, they will act as neutral parties and advocate when necessary for staff issues. Finally, the CRP plans on-site quiet rooms at CWS offices for staff to have a private, calm space to destress or meditate during this period.

## **5. CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT)**

Please see section IV.3. above which outlines the purpose of the CWS Management Leadership Team.

In SFY 2022, in MLT meetings, CWS focuses on implementing Family First Hawaii – Hawaii's prevention services under the federal Family First Prevention and Services Act. In addition, CWS is rolling out

services to additional populations to prevent child abuse and neglect and prevent children from entering foster care. Most of these prevention services work with families in their own homes, providing direct and tailored support to parents and caregivers.

The planned efforts and collaboration with the statewide CWS leadership will improve practice and services, help Hawaii meet its PIP3 goals, and ultimately benefit the children and families CWS serves.

#### **6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment**

To remain current with its statutory obligation to the Department of Accounting & General Services (DAGS), DHS plans to pay \$34,000 to the DAGS for the required special fund assessments in SFY 2022.

#### **7. DV Training and DV Fatality Review**

CWS identifies that approximately 20% - 30% of the families involved in child welfare are also experiencing domestic violence (DV). Therefore, in SFY 2022, CWS will continue working with other State agencies and community providers to build awareness, ensure DV services are available, and thoroughly review fatality cases to provide the needed response to community domestic violence.

#### **8. Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC)**

Please see the description in section IV.5. above.

In SFY 2022, HISYNC will continue its work across agencies on several cases involving youth with multiple challenges. HISYNC is creating a framework for addressing these cases with multi-agency involvement so that responsibility for the youth's health, safety, and wellbeing is shared and cooperatively supported.

#### **9. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services – Oahu**

Please see the service description in section IV.6. above.

CWS plans to continue to fund this essential and well-utilized service in SFY 2022, serving approximately another 200 people on Oahu needing sex abuse treatment.